



PROGRESS UPDATE

Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility

(as of June 30, 2003)

Where We Are

- **TOTAL DRAINED** – Work continues on the accelerated destruction of the mustard agent stockpile at the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. As of June 30, the U.S. Army Technical Escort Unit has transported 72 bulk containers of mustard agent to the facility. Of those, ABCDF workers have drained 57 containers, a total of more than 38 tons of mustard agent.
- **HYDROLYSATE** – Of the drained mustard agent, more than 32 tons have been neutralized as of June 30. Shipment of the byproduct of neutralization, known as hydrolysate, began June 17. The hydrolysate is shipped to DuPont Secure Environmental Treatment at Chambers Works, in Deepwater, N.J., where it is biotreated.
- **PUBLIC MEETINGS SCHEDULED** – Public meetings will be held on July 16, 2003, 7 p.m. at the Edgewood Senior Center in Edgewood, Md., and July 17, 2003, 7 p.m. at Chestertown Middle School in Kent County, Md. The purpose of these meetings is to provide citizens with an update on progress at the ABCDF, answer questions and discuss findings of a higher pH in some batches of the neutralization byproduct, called hydrolysate.
- **STOP WORK ORDER** – On June 6, the ABCDF stopped draining and neutralizing mustard agent following an inspection at the facility. This inspection discovered administrative issues with paperwork that had to be resolved. Maintenance and hydrolysate actions continued during the stop work order. The stop work order was lifted on June 16, and draining and neutralization of mustard agent resumed.
- **INCIDENTS** – Press releases were issued about several incidents at the ABCDF. None of the incidents resulted in injury to workers, the community or the environment, or release outside the facility.
 - On May 12, a low level of mustard agent vapor was detected near a drained ton container due to an error in reading the level of agent inside a drain station. Additional training was implemented and procedures were adjusted to prevent this from happening again. (*Press release #03-02, dated May 13, 2003*)
 - On May 28, a power outage resulted in a brief rise in agent levels, which were contained within the neutralization building. Back-up generators restored the facility's cascade ventilation system within moments, and the levels subsided. Workers evacuated temporarily and there was no threat to the workforce or outside community. The facility's electrical engineers have corrected the cause of the power failure. (*Press release #03-03, dated May 30, 2003*)
 - On June 22, an alarm went off when mustard agent vapor was detected in an airlock, where workers were processing a hazardous waste drum. Workers masked and evacuated the facility. Additional training was implemented and procedures were adjusted to prevent this from happening again. (*Press release #03-04, dated June 25, 2003*)
 - On June 25, workers masked and evacuated the facility after an alarm alerted to the possible presence of mustard agent vapor. Three employees who were working at a drain station returned to work after they were medically cleared. (*Press release #03-05, dated June 26, 2003*)
 - On June 28, an alarm sounded at a drain station room, where a container had been removed after draining and decontamination. No one was in the room at the time of the alarm, and evacuation was not required. (*Press release #03-06, dated June 28, 2003*)
- The ramp-up of the ABCDF remains slow and methodical. To date, the target date for completion of the project remains at November 2003. This date will be reevaluated, as needed, and adjusted if necessary. We remain committed to ensuring the safety of all our workers, the community and the environment during all phases of the accelerated neutralization process.

Where We'll Be

- Visit our information booth at the Harford County Farm Fair, July 24-27, at the Harford County Equestrian Center in Bel Air, Md., and at the Party on the Bay, Aug. 16, in Rock Hall (Kent County), Md.

For more information, contact the Edgewood Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, (410) 676-6800; the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Public Affairs Office, (410) 436-5253; or the Bechtel Aberdeen Public Outreach Office, (410) 436-9507.